



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE CORRECTIONS

R & D NEWS

ADJC RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

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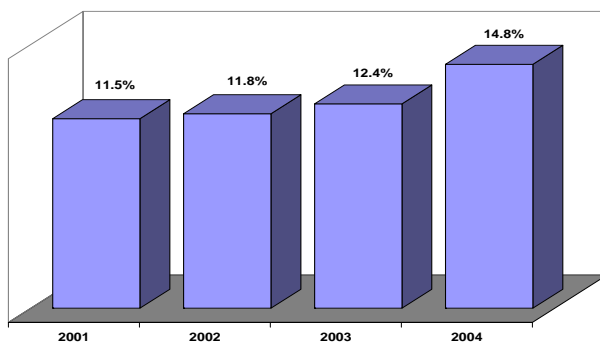
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CURRENT ADJC RESEARCH

Figure 1

Females as a Per Cent of ADJC New Commits: By Fiscal Year



Stella Vasquez, Serious Assaults by Commitment Status, September 2004.

While most of the juveniles in our safe schools are new commitments, parole violators account for a large percentage as well. Some have argued that parole violators are disruptive to the smooth operation of correctional facilities, and they commit a disproportionate number of assaults. At the request of Assistant Director Jim Hillyard, Ms. Vasquez examined the ADJC Safe School population during 2003 and she found that, in fact, new commits engaged in a disproportionate number of assaults with injuries. While 51.9% of our population was composed of new commitments, 75.6% of the assaults with injuries were caused by new commitments. While 28.6% of our population was composed of parole violators, 22.8% of the assaults with injuries were committed by them.

JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA

How much exposure do juveniles have to Arizona's Juvenile Court system before they come to the Department?

Gopal Chengalath, Recidivism of the Juveniles Released from ADJC in 2002, October 2004.

Of the 835 juveniles released from ADJC during 2002, 153 (18.3%) returned to custody within one year; 37 (4.4%) of these returned to the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC) and 116 (13.9%) recidivated to the ADJC. Recidivists tended to be male and Hispanics. A break-down of the 153 recidivists revealed that 139 (90.8%) were male and 14 (9.2%) were female. The racial/ethnic break-down of the recidivists was as follows: 88 (57.5%) were Hispanics, 36 (23.5%) were White, 19 (12.4%) were African American and 24 (6.6%) were Native Americans or Mexican Nationals.

Jennifer Grimes and John Vivian, "Substance Abuse Treatment Programs for Incarcerated Youth: A Review of the Literature," November 2004.

Evaluations conducted on substance abuse programs with incarcerated youth have been scarce, and/or have produced mixed results. None of the programs registered with the National Registry of Effective Programs addresses substance abuse treatment for incarcerated youth and no model programs for treating incarcerated youth with substance abuse programs currently exists. This literature review was conducted at the request of Deputy Director Dianne Gadow and it included reviews of academic literature, publications from major substance abuse research and treatment organizations and direct contacts with staff at those research and treatment organizations. Individual program components that have been shown to reduce youth substance abuse include 1) treatment specific to the special developmental needs of youth, 2) programs for females and minorities that address their development, risk and resiliency factors as well as

their racial and cultural identities, 3) aftercare that is incorporated into the original treatment plan and 4) treatment that incorporates the youth's family.

JUVENILE JUSTICE LITERATURE REVIEW

Phelan Wyrick and James Howell, Strategic Risk-Based Response to Youth Gangs, Juvenile Justice, OJJDP , September 2004.

Gang members commit property, weapons, drug and violent offenses at significantly higher rates than juveniles who are not involved in gangs. In this article, Wyrick and Howell identify the risk factors that correlate with gang membership. Individual risk factors appear at a very early age and include conduct disorders, drug use and precocious sexual activity. Family risk factors include poverty, child abuse or neglect. One of the strongest school-based risk factors is low achievement in school. Association with peers who engage in delinquency was found to be one of the strongest risk factors for gang membership. Community risk factors for gang membership include availability of drugs, many delinquent juveniles and low neighborhood attachment. As far as prevention and treatment is concerned, "...isolated efforts to target a single risk factor...are unlikely to have much success...thus communities need to address...multiple risk factor domains."

Arizona Criminal Justice Commission, 2004 Arizona Youth Survey: Department of Juvenile Corrections, December 2004.

ADJC juveniles included in the 2004 Arizona Youth Survey exceeded statewide averages for 24 out of the 26 risk factors. ADJC juveniles also had lower scores on 9 of the 13 protective factors. In other words, juveniles committed to ADJC had more problems with handguns, drugs, gangs and school than other Arizona juveniles. In addition, juveniles committed to ADJC had lower scores on delinquency protective factors such as social skills, belief in the moral order and prosocial involvement than other Arizona juveniles. The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) study was based on a statewide survey of 40,960 Arizona students.

Altschuler, David M. & Rachel Brash (2004). "Adolescent and Teenage Offenders Confronting the Challenges and Opportunities of Reentry." *Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice*, January 2004.

The authors identified the following factors that policy makers should consider when planning successful youth reentry: (1) reentry should be incorporated into a paradigm based upon community reintegration; (2) the purposes and tension between institutional corrections and community corrections should be addressed and resolved; (3) the intersection of a youth's legal status and chronological age need to be considered; (4) the intersection of a youth's stages of development and chronological age should be addressed; (5) a youth's risk and protective factors should be examined prior to reentry; and (6) reentry policies should incorporate the seven domains of reentry. The seven domains of reentry were identified as: family and living arrangement, peer groups, mental and physical health, education, vocational training and employment, substance abuse, and leisure and avocational activities. The authors emphasize the need for reentry policies to be age-specific and developmentally appropriate for youth. It is in the best interests of both the youth and the community if juveniles can be reintegrated successfully into the community and remain crime-free; harsh reentry policies that do not consider a juvenile's youthfulness hinder successful reintegration. The authors claim that these harsh policies actually make it more difficult for juveniles to refrain from recidivating. The developmental and correctional transition challenges faced by juveniles should be addressed with specialized staff, facilities, and resources trained and prepared to address youths' special needs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE TRIVIA ANSWER

Most new commitments have a lot of exposure to the Arizona juvenile court. In fact, 78% of our fiscal year 2004 new commitments had four or more adjudications before they came to ADJC.

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